

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-49 are the claims that have been examined in the instant invention. Claims 1-7, 22-23, 26-33 and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kazuto (JP 08-032461A). Claims 24-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazuto. Claims 9-21 and 36-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazuto as applied to claims 1-2, 4, 7, 26, 29 and 33 above, and further in view of Kobayashi (US 6,738,047). Claims 8 and 34-35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Preliminary Matters

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Applicant further thanks the Examiner for considering and initialing the Information Disclosure Statements filed November 21, 2003, October 15, 2004, and August 22, 2005.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge acceptance of the drawings filed November 21, 2003.

Claim Objections

The Examiner alleges that claims 36 and 38 are the same claim. Applicants respectfully disagree. Claim 36 recites "said basic unit further comprising upgrade terminal means for

downloading data to upgrade said basic unit.” Claim 38 recites a upgrade terminal means, but downloads data to upgrade said basic unit *and said additional unit*. Therefore, claims 36 and 38 are not identical claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8 and 34-35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 8, 34 and 35 would be patentable if rewritten in independent form, but respectfully request that any rewriting be held in abeyance until the Examiner has had the opportunity to reconsider the prior art rejections of the other claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7, 22-23, 26-33 and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kazuto (JP 08-032461A).

Claim 1 recites, “a remote-control signal transmitting section for transmitting a relevant equipment key code to a relevant piece of electronic equipment” and “an extension connection terminal portion comprising a data line for receiving the relevant key code when generated ... outside of said basic unit.” The Examiner alleges that Kazuto teaches or suggests all of the elements of claim 1, citing FIGS. 1 and 2, and paragraphs [0014]-[0019]. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Kazuto teaches a remote control transmitter having a first key input section acting as a basic operation unit, and a second key input section (extended unit) acting as an extended operation unit. The first key input section controls actions for a device such as power ON/OFF, channel UP/DOWN, and volume UP/DOWN. See paragraph [0016]. The second key input section controls, for the same device, actions such as changing the brightness or hue of the device. See paragraph [0017]. However, Kazuto fails to teach or suggest transmitting a relevant equipment key code to a relevant piece of electronic equipment, said relevant key code generated according to a selected value of one of said common input selection buttons or a selected value of a specific input selection button arranged outside of said basic unit, as recited in claim 1. Rather, the remote control transmitter in Kazuto is programmed to be directed toward a single device, and therefore does not need to generate and send a relevant equipment key code to a relevant piece of electronic equipment. Further, Kazuto fails to teach or suggest that values of one of said common input selection buttons generate the relevant key code. Rather, Kazuto teaches that a memory stores the function for each button of the remote control transmitter for the particular device that the remote control transmitter is directed toward.

Additionally, Kazuto fails to teach or suggest “an extension connection terminal portion comprising a data line for receiving the relevant key code when generated ... outside of said basic unit” as recited in claim 1. When the second key input section taught by Kazuto is attached to the first key input section, the memory contained in the first key input section contains the codes corresponding to the keys on the second key input section. Thus, the first key input

section *transmits* the key code to the second key input section, not *receives* the relevant key code, as recited in claim 1.

For the reasons listed above, claim 1 are patentable over the applied art. Claims 2-7 and 22 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

Claims 23 and 26 recite similar limitations to claim 1. Therefore, for reasons analogous to those noted in claim 1, claims 23 and 26 are patentable over the applied art. Specifically, both claims 23 and 26 recite relevant key code generated outside of the basic unit, while as noted above, Kazuto only teaches key function codes generated *within* the first key input section. Claims 27-33 and 49 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 24-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazuto.

Claims 24 and 25 recite similar limitations to claim 1. Therefore, because Kazuto fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1, and because the defects noted in Kazuto are not cured, claims 24 and 25 are patentable for reasons analogous to those presented with respect to claim 1.

Specifically, as noted above, the second key input section in Kazuto does not transmit an arbitrary key code to a comparison/determination section of the first key input section, as recited in claims 24 and 25.

Claims 9-21 and 36-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazuto as applied to claims 1-2, 4, 7, 26, 29 and 33 above, and further in view of Kobayashi (US 6,738,047).

Claims 9-21 and 36-48 are dependent from claims 1 and 26. Because Kazuto fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of claims 1 and 26, and because Kazuto fails to cure the defects noted with respect to claims 1 and 26, claims 9-21 and 36-48 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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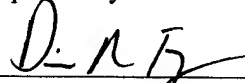
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Date: March 22, 2007